

LIEU LAND FRAUDS

SOURCE OF INIQUITIES
NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD.

Has Been the Agency by Which the Government Has Been Directly De-frauded, and the Homeseekers Indirectly so, Out of Vast Tracts—Necessity for Repeal on the Terms Demanded by the Irrigation Congress—Facing a Timber Famine.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Politics aside, congress has at times succeeded in innocently doing things of incalculable injury to the country. Such has been the effect of a law passed a few years ago creating what is known as Forest Reserve Land Scrip. Few people throughout the country, especially in the East, know anything of this law, yet its workings have been perhaps the most iniquitous of any land law ever administered by any government in any age. It has resulted in millions and tens of millions of dollars' worth of the most magnificent merchantable timbered lands in the world passing from the government into the hands of lumber syndicates and speculators, for which little and in some cases absolutely no value has been received by the government.

On its face the forest lieu land law was a beneficent measure, and so the majority of congressmen thought when they enacted it. It provided that where the government created a forest reserve and settlers already had their homes in that reserve, they could exchange their lands for any other public lands which they might select, the idea being that the forest reservation, by stopping further settlement, would condemn them to isolation. Then the law was made to apply broadly to all people or corporations who might hold or have filed on any land in forest reserves created or to be created.

The land-grant railroads in some instances and large land dealers and speculators held enormous tracts of land, good and bad, in the forest reserves.

How the Government is Cheated.

Where poor, it was immediately exchanged for good timber lands; where good the owners, or the companies to whom they sold it proceeded to divest it of every foot of timber, and then turned it in to the government and located in lieu of it, acre for acre, tracts in the pathless forests of Washington, Oregon, Northern California and Idaho, forests mentioned by the secretary of the interior as worth \$50 and even \$100 an acre.

The people of the West—those who are not interested in timber steals of various sorts—are outraged at the magnitude of the timber men's operations, not at the great legitimate lumbering industry of the West, but at the evasion of the timber laws, the absolute downright fraud, stealing and perjury which is occurring in every timbered section and most of all at the reckless methods of lumbering by which entire watersheds are denuded and destroyed, thus drying up the water resources for irrigation upon which the fertile western valleys depend for their very life.

The difficulty which the irrigator and the forest preserver will meet is this: Neither are organized. The great mass of the people would favor the abrogation of this abominable law and the recent National Irrigation resolution to that effect; nevertheless what is everybody's business is nobody's business in particular, and the forest lieu land scrip law is likely to continue on the statute books unless an overwhelming public sentiment sweeps it away. And indeed so well are the timbermen organized that any effort at legislation will immediately arouse a great western outcry. It will be but the protest of men who are making enormous fortunes through the squandering of the nation's greatest resource.

To Create a Lobby.

An instance of this is seen in the following imitation typewritten letter which is being sent broadcast among all timber land dealers:

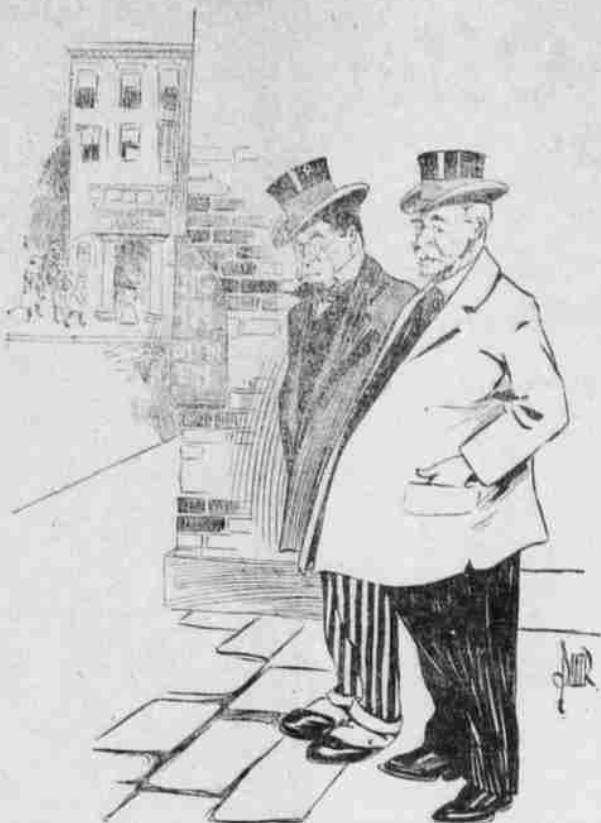
"Dear Sir: I am advised that immediately upon the assembling of congress in December, either the Mondell bill restricting the purchasing power of forest reserve scrip will be placed upon its passage, or a new bill still more disastrous will be introduced, providing that all patented lands within forest reservations which have not been relinquished and lieu selections made against them, are to be condemned, and owners will be forced to sell to the government at the government price, presumably \$1.25 per acre. If this latter bill is enacted into law, forest reserve scrip will be a thing of the past.

"It occurs to me that all scrip dealers should unite and resist these measures vigorously. Able counsel should be retained to defeat these measures. I would be glad to have you offer suggestions, naming suitable counsel. You may depend upon me to co-operate in any movement which seems best. I am ready to contribute my proportion of the necessary funds to push this matter vigorously. Prompt action is necessary.

"May I have your immediate reply?"

"Yours very truly,"

This letter says that "forest reserve scrip" will be a thing of the past. It should be a thing of the past, and this congress about to convene should promptly make it a thing of the past. The owners of these lands included in forest reserves should be forced to sell them to the government at, not necessarily at \$1.25 per acre, but at the appraised value, as is advocated by the National Irrigation Association. Many of these lands have already been denuded of their last stick



HIS IDEAL.

President of the Hide-and-Seek Bank—I heard him tell a story at the club last night, and he ought to make a fine cashier. Vice President—Why so?

President—He couldn't possibly be short in his accounts.

of timber and are not worth 50 cents an acre.

With this forest lieu land law upon the statute books it is a question whether the creation of additional forest reserves does not become more of a menace to forestry and irrigation than a good.

Are Facing a Timber Famine.

The most eminent forest authorities tell us that at the present rate of forest destruction there will be no forests in the United States within 40 years. There is no more certain way to bring this condition about than to continue the operation of the forest reserve scrip law and the timber and stone law.

With a wise forest policy by which the title of the remaining public forest land shall remain in the government, allowing the sale of the stumpage, as recommended to congress by President Roosevelt, thus assuring a second growth of timber and the endurance of the water supply, an easy solution of this great problem is offered. It is opposed, of course, by timber and lumber speculators and

manipulators, but the American people should open their eyes to the facts, as they frequently do, when abuses have reached a certain limit, and make themselves heard on this tremendous question.—Guy E. Mitchell.

Revolution Imminent.

A sure sign of approaching revolt and serious trouble in your system is nervousness, sleeplessness, or stomach upsets. Electric Bitters will quickly dismember the troublesome causes. It never fails to tone the stomach, regulate the kidneys and bowels, stimulate the liver, and clarify the blood. Run down systems benefit particularly and all the usual attending aches vanish under its searching and thorough effectiveness. Electric Bitters is only 50c, and that is returned if it don't give perfect satisfaction. Guaranteed by Tallman & Co., druggists.

William K. Vanderbilt was sixth in the list of winning owners in the Paris horse races this year. He won \$57,600. Edmund Blane was first, with \$126,200.

FRAZER THEATRE

K. J. TAYLOR, Manager

ONE NIGHT ONLY

Tuesday Dec., Dec. 20

The Intensely Sensational Romantic Comedy Drama.

THE FATAL SCAR

INTRODUCING

FRANK JAMES

OF THE FAMOUS JAMES BROS., FRANK AND JESSE.
"THE MAN WHO NEVER BROKE A PROMISE." WE WILL PAY \$5,000.00 IF FRANK JAMES DOES NOT APPEAR IN THIS PRODUCTION.

PRICES: 25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00.

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

My stock MUST be reduced and is now offered at less than regular prices. Lots of articles are going at cost. It will pay anyone to come and see Joe Basler from now until January first, for he is in it on low prices.

JOE BASLER

You Enjoy Bowling to Get the Benefit

Bowling is an exercise that brings into play all the muscles. It develops the system and is recommended by physicians and instructors in athletics everywhere. Pool and billiard hall in connection.

"Get in the Game"

Alleys reserved for private parties if spoken for in advance.

Brunswick Bowling Alley

WADE SILER, Prop.

For sale at the East Oregonian office—Large Bundles of newspapers containing over 100 big papers, can be had for 25c a bundle.

Clothing at Half Price

Money Must Be Raised To Pay Bills.....

IN ORDER TO MEET OUR OBLIGATIONS WE ARE FORCED TO DISPOSE OF OUR CLOTHING AT A GREAT SACRIFICE. OUR BILLS HAVE TO BE PAID AND WE ARE COMPELLED TO RESORT TO STRENUOUS METHODS TO GET THE MONEY.

Every Suit of Clothes, every Overcoat, every pair of Trousers

IN OUR STORE IS CUT IN PRICE, ONE-HALF. YOU SAVE EXACTLY ONE-HALF THE PRICE IF YOU BUY NOW.

OUR LOSS IS YOUR GAIN

WE MUST PROTECT OUR CREDIT AND STAND THE SACRIFICE.

This is a Genuine Half-Price Sale

OUR OBJECT IS TO RAISE MONEY AND NO GOODS WILL BE CHARGED DURING THE SALE. YOU CAN BE YOUR OWN SALESMAN. THE GOODS ARE MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES, AND YOU CAN TAKE THEM AT ONE-HALF.

One-Half Price Means Exactly What We Advertise

\$25.00 SUITS AND OVERCOATS GO FOR \$12.50
\$22.50 SUITS AND OVERCOATS GO FOR \$11.25
\$20.00 SUITS AND OVERCOATS GO FOR \$10.00
\$18.00 SUITS AND OVERCOATS GO FOR \$9.00
\$15.00 SUITS AND OVERCOATS GO FOR \$7.50
\$12.00 SUITS AND OVERCOATS GO FOR \$6.00
\$10.00 SUITS AND OVERCOATS GO FOR \$5.00
\$9.00 SUITS AND OVERCOATS GO FOR \$4.50

TROUSERS GO AT HALF PRICE

\$6.00 TROUSERS FOR \$3.00
\$5.00 TROUSERS FOR \$2.50
\$3.50 TROUSERS FOR \$1.75
\$2.00 TROUSERS FOR \$1.00
\$1.50 TROUSERS FOR 75c

SALE NOW ON. ONE DOLLAR IS EQUAL TO TWO DOLLARS AT THIS SALE

SULLIVAN & BOND, Your Clothiers